

HONORING GUEST CHAPLAIN JEFF STRUECKER

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, "Struecker felt his own heart sink. His vehicles were all shot up. The rear of his Humvee was splattered with Pila's blood and brains. When the body was pulled out, it did not even look like Pila anymore. The top of his head was gone and his face was grotesquely swollen and disfigured. Struecker's men were freaking out."

This is the scene Mark Bowden describes in his novel retelling the horrors of the firefight in Somalia. Here today leading us in prayer is a hero and a survivor of this vicious fight, Captain Jeff Struecker, currently serving at Ft. Bragg in my district in North Carolina. Captain Struecker is a model citizen and soldier for us all. A devoted husband and father of five, Jeff has experienced combat in such places as Panama, Kuwait, and Somalia and has received numerous medals honoring his service.

Entering the ministry during his service at Fort Benning, Jeff has provided inspiration and ministered to many in the past few years. He states that the experience in Mogadishu called him to God, as it was his faith that gave him the strength to fight the rest of the night. This "bullet-proof faith," to use Jeff's words, would serve as example to all of us about the power of God. We are lucky to have Chaplain Struecker here with us today. May God bless him and his family and the men and women that currently fight for our freedom.

COMMENDING SARAH AHN

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend a very brave and very smart little girl by the name of Sarah Ahn. Sarah Ahn is the playmate and friend of Samantha Runnion, the girl who was snatched when playing near her Stanton, California home. I commend Sarah Ahn because she was the only eyewitness to such a horrible crime and gave the police the details about Samantha's kidnapper that ultimately led to his arrest. While this event was obviously extremely tragic, Sarah Ahn proved to everyone that children need not be victims.

Her story of bravery is one of many that I have heard about children saving or being key witnesses in abduction cases. One of the most wonderful stories I have ever heard was of an elementary school girl who kept insisting that a boy in her class was the one on the missing children's card, the Advo card, that they got at their home. Her persistence caused her mother to ultimately call the police, tell the story and learn that the little boy had indeed

been abducted. He was returned to his family.

Mr. Speaker, I want to urge every parent to encourage your children to be aware of what is going on around them. Listen to your kids when they tell you that something might be wrong and trust them. Sarah Ahn is an inspiration to every one of us.

RECOGNIZING MIAMI JOB CORPS CENTER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Miami Job Corps Center for all of its hard work in providing quality training programs and employment opportunities for our South Florida youth. I want to send special thanks to the center's director, Luis Cerezo, whose generous devotion to our community's young people has made this organization a great success.

Through the Miami Job Corps Center, young adults in our community have been able to participate in mentoring programs and job fairs which have reinforced employability and interviewing skills, leadership training, dress code and business etiquette. In particular, one project with the School for Integrated Academics and Technologies provides student trainees the opportunity to finish their high school studies in a classroom-based, high-tech environment which will better prepare them to achieve in the working world.

I again want to thank all of the dedicated workers of the Miami Job Corps Center for giving our community's young people greater opportunities for success.

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE ECONOMY

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, each weekend when I go home to my district, the issue I hear the most about is with respect to the economy. President Bush has told the American public that our economy is fundamentally sound. I question that terminology. I question it because in my own district, one of the largest cities that I represent, the city of El Monte, we have upwards of 9 percent unemployment. In the city of South El Monte, it goes beyond. It is 11 percent. People are wondering what is happening to them there. In Baldwin Park, unemployment rates are 8.2 percent. In South El Monte again, it is 11 percent. And it is not just about the unemployed. It is about jobs and it is about the potential for these people to have a place to stay, to live, to raise their families.

Each day brings more layoffs and each week brings new news that yet another corporate scandal is upon us.

The collapse of WorldCom has serious implications for not only those that work for that company but also the many people and organizations who invested millions in that company. The California Public Employees Retirement System, CALPERS, which provides retirement and health benefit services to 1.3 million public employees and nearly 2,500 employers, has estimated a loss at \$433 million because of the collapse of WorldCom.

It is time for President Bush and the Republican majority in the House to stand up for workers and provide restitution to the employees who lost their life savings and their pension funds.

TIME TO SEND AN ENERGY BILL TO THE PRESIDENT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also welcome Captain Struecker by saying "Airborne All the Way" and "Rangers Lead the Way."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about a provision in the energy bill that would greatly impact my district. Both the House and Senate versions of this energy bill contain a provision that would allow small oil refiners of 75,000 barrels a day or less 75 percent expensing of capital cost associated with complying with EPA's heavy duty diesel regulations.

The Premcor Wood River Refinery, located just outside my district, recently announced that it would be closing its doors, laying off over 300 employees because the cost to comply with these regulations is too high. This year the refinery capacity in Illinois will be at 889,000 barrels a day, which is 150,000 barrels less than 2 years ago. Combine that with the fact that no new refinery has been built in the U.S. in 25 years and that the number of refineries has been cut in half in the last 20 years and the problem only worsens. This creates an even tighter supply. A small fire or mechanical problem that forces a refinery to shut down for even a day has a drastic impact on the price of gasoline.

Illinois has faced job loss and unstable gas prices as we wait for Congress to pass an energy bill that provides some relief for the small independent refineries of our country. Mr. Speaker, it is time to send an energy bill to the President.

SUPPORTING THE PRACTITIONERS OF FALUN GONG

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of practitioners of Falun Gong. Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a peaceful spiritual